

## INDIANA STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

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MARCH 2, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

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MR. WARREN, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 7402.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred an act (H. R. 7402) for the relief of the Indiana State board of agriculture, have considered the same and hereby report it back to the Senate, recommending its passage without amendment.

The act proposes to authorize and direct the Secretary of War to cause to be investigated by the Quartermaster's Department of the United States Army the circumstances, character, and extent of the alleged use, occupation, and damage of the buildings and grounds of this claimant by the military authorities and forces of the United States during the war with Spain, and to certify to the Secretary of the Treasury the amount, if any, equitably due the claimant from the United States.

House Report No. 24, Fifty-eighth Congress, second session, is adopted by your committee and made a part of their report, as follows:

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7402) for the relief of the Indiana State board of agriculture, submit the following report:

A favorable report on this case was made by this committee in the Fifty-seventh Congress. The facts involved are set forth in that report, which is adopted and made part of this report, a copy being hereto appended.

Your committee recommend the passage of the bill.

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[House Report No. 867, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11781) to appropriate money to pay the claim of the Indiana State board of agriculture, submit the following report:

It is alleged that in 1898, during the war with Spain, United States military authorities took possession of the buildings and grounds of the Indiana State board of agriculture and used them for quarters for volunteer soldiers from April 26, 1898, until December 1, 1898; that the property was kept in good condition down to the use and occupation by United States troops; that when the property was vacated by the said soldiers the buildings and grounds were greatly damaged, and for which the said board of agriculture asks an appropriation of \$9,037.50 to reimburse them for the use, occupation, and damage to the property.

The claim was filed in the War Department under the provisions of the act of June 6, 1900, but after the time had expired for filing claims under the terms of said act.

It seems to your committee that an investigation by the Secretary of War, or under his direction, is a matter of necessity before intelligent action can be had upon this case. The history of the transaction is susceptible of proof, and, while this is true, the committee desire the benefit of such proof outside of the ex parte statements of the petitioners.

The committee report herewith, as a substitute for H. R. 11781, a bill conferring power upon the Secretary of War to have the case investigated through the Quartermaster's Department and to report the result, with his recommendation thereon, to the Secretary of the Treasury for his action in the premises, and recommend its passage.

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